(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) to (c) During the visit of the then Prime Minister of India to the Russian Federation from 24-26 March 1997, an understanding was reached to work on a new programme of military-technical cooperation between India and the Russian Federation beyond the year 2000.

NAM Ministerial Conference

4283. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:
SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foreign minister's conference of NAM member countries was held in New Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the details of discussions held and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether non-aligned foreign ministers reached any agreement on the issues like the United Nations reforms, expansion of the Security Council, nuclear disarmament within a time bound framework and enlargement of the non-aligned movement; and

(d) the number of NAM members, who supported a permanent seat for India in the proposed expansion of the Security Council?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Conference discussed the prevailing international situation and important political, security, economic, social and environmental issues. It adopted a final Document, Communique on Palestine issue, Declaration on Agenda 21 and Security Council Reform.

(c) and (d) The Foreign Ministers opposed partial or selective expansion of the Security Council to the detriment of developing countries and called for under-representation of NAM countries to be corrected by enlargement of the Security Council. They also called for a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons within a specific time-frame. The request of Bosnia & Herzegovina and Costa Rica for membership of the Non-Aligned Movement were referred to the NAM Co-ordinating Bureau for further consideration.

Status of the People of Indian Origin in Fiji

4284. SHRI RAMJI LAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the proportion of the people of Indian origin living in Fiji in the total population of the country;

(b) whether Government are awere of the Status of the people of Indian origin living there;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of efforts made so far by the Government of India to get them justice from that Government

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) According to the provisional results of the 1996 census, Fiji's total population of 772, 655 consists of 394,999 ethnic Fijians, 336,579 ethnic Fijian Indians and 41,077 others. People of Indian origin living in Fiji accordingly constitute 43.56 per cent of the total population.

(b) and (c) Under the 1990 Constitution of Fiji, ethnic Fijian Indians can elect only 27 members in the 70-member House of representatives, irrespective of their percentage strength in the total population. The ethnic Fijians, are entitled to elect 37 members of the Houses of representatives. The

overwhelming majority in the Senate is also made up of ethnic Fijians. Only ethnic Fijians can occupy the post of president or prime Minister. Fijians of Indian ethnicity are, thus, at a disadvantage, as the racially-biased Constitution does not guaranthee them fair Parliamentary representation, in proportion to their numerical strength in the total population. This anomaly becomes striking when seen against the fact that in 1990, when the Constitution was adopted, Fijians of Indian origin were in majority.

(d) Government of India has taken sustained action in internaitonal fora to highlight the discrimination the ethnic Indian community is subjected to. We have made clear our view that we cannot agree to the re-entry of Fiji into the Commonwealth till a democratic, non-discriminatory and properly representational constitution is adopted. Our deep concern regarding discrimination by the Government of Fiji against their own nationals of Indian origin has also been repeatedly made known to the international community, especially countries of the Commonwealth and those located in the South Pacific. In early 1995 the Government of Fiji set up a Constitution Review Commission which submitted its report in September 1996, recommending, interalia, that the ethnic bias of the constitution be corrected. The report is presently under consideration of Joint Parliamentary Select Committee of Fij Parliament. We are followings the process of the Constitutional reform that has been set in motion, and hope that the implementation of the Commission's recommendations will be done in a manner that meets the legitimate expectations and aspirations of the Fijians of Indian origin and that the expected constitutional reforms would provide a mechanism for taking care of the interests of the ethnic Fijian Indian farmers. Government of India is fully alive to the situation of the people of Indian origin in Fiji and will continue to maintain diplomatic pressure on the Government of Fiji. We are also in touch with the concerned friendly countries in this regard.

Indian Pows in Pakistan Jails

4285. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:
SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:
SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pelased to State

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Indian Prisoners Of War (POWS) captured by Pakistan in the 1971 war, are still languishing in Pak jails;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons why even after 25 years they could not be released;

(d) the efforts Government of India are making/have made so far with their Pak counterpart to secure their release;

(e) by when these worthy sons of the nation are expected to return to the motherland; and

(f) whether Pak POWs of the 1971 war also in Indian jails?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) to (e) According to avialable information, 54 Indian defence personnel missing from the 1965 and 1971 wars are believed to be in deterntion in Pakistan, Pakistan has been maintaining that there are no such Indian defence personnel in its custody.

This issue has repeatedly been taken up with the Government of Pakistan and was again raised at the meeting between the External Affairs Minister of Inida and the Foreign Minister of Pakistan on 9 April, 1997. The Pakistani Foreign Minister continued to maintain that no Indian POWs were under detention in Pakistan, but nevertheless offered to receive all material with us on this subject. This material will be forwarded